

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Good Hope Baptist Church, Elmore Co., Ala.,

October 2, 3 and 4 1889.

OFFICERS:

L. H. HASTIE, Moderator	Marble Valley, Ala.
D. S. MARTIN, Clerk	Equality, "
T. J. PENINGTON, Treasurer,	Rockford, "

*The next session of the Central Baptist Association will be held
with Providence Church, Coosa County, Ala., commencing
on Wednesday before the first Sunday in October,
1890. To preach the Introductory Sermon,
Eld. J. D. Hughes; alternate,
Eld. A. C. Swindall.*



MINUTES.

GOOD HOPE, ALA., Oct. 2d, 1889.

The forty-fifth annual session of the Central Baptist Association convened with Good Hope church, Elmore county, Ala., October 2nd, 1889.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. Z. D. Roby, at 11 o'clock A. M., from the Text: "For we are workers together with God." 1 Cor. 3:9. After the sermon a recess of one hour and thirty minutes was given for refreshments.

EVENING SESSION.

1:30 o'clock. The Association assembled in the church and was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. L. H. Hastie, who opened the service by prayer.

The letters from the churches were then received and brethren Geo. E. Brewer and J. L. Thompson were requested to read them. The following brethren were received as messengers:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Alexandria City—T. S. Christian, J. R. Christian.
Bethesda—D. S. Martin, B. F. Harris.
Liberty—F. M. Willis.
Shiloh—E. J. Bryant, George M. Thomas.
Goodwater—H. S. Gosden, J. E. Grimes.
Mt. Pleasant—Represented by letter.
New Hope—Represented by letter.
Mt. Zion—Jas. Walker, J. R. Funderburk, J. B. Williams.
New Providence—J. R. Reems, J. J. Talton.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Good Hope—O. C. Swindall, H. T. Lett, M. F. Lett.
Refuge—J. H. Taylor, T. J. McDonald.
Harmony—J. H. Colley, W. H. Colley, D. F. Avant.
Antioch—J. H. Hickman, G. W. Jones.
Lebanon—T. P. Moon, W. J. Ruffin.
Eclectic—W. J. D. Upshaw, S. D. Hickman, Jas. Hopson, Jno. Jones.
County Line—Represented by letter.
Bethlehem—Benj. Martin, Hugh Rodgers.
Union—H. J. Davis, Jr., Jas. Wideman.
Santuck—W. J. Johnson, G. C. Floyd.
Beulah—J. M. Bachelor, Jas. Macon.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Concord—J. W. Gilliland, J. C. Moseley.
Providence—A. J. Clark.
Way Side—G. W. Davis, W. P. Ward, T. M. Collins.
Shady Grove—Not represented.
Rockford—J. G. Haynie, T. J. Penington, A. D. Bentley.
Salem—J. D. Hughes, W. R. Miller.
Olive Branch—J. L. Neeley.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Poplar Springs—M. L. Allmon.
Mt. Olive—Represented by letter.

Union Springs—L. H. Hastie.
 Macedonia—A. J. Smith, M. T. Conaway.
 Hatchett Creek—R. C. Hardy.
 Hollins—Represented by letter and E. F. Baber.

Petitionary letters were presented from the newly constituted churches at New Providence and Hollins.

The churches were received and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to the delegates.

The body then proceeded to a permanent organization by electing the former officers by acclamation.

The Moderator invited visiting brethren to seats, and proceeded to appoint the following committees to report during the present session:

On Religious Exercises—James Walker, W. P. Ward, and the pastor and delegates of Good Hope church.

On Finance and Auditing—G. W. Davis, J. R. Christian, A. D. Bentley.

On Documents and Requests—W. J. D. Upshaw, J. H. Hickman, B. F. Harris.

On Nominations—W. R. Miller, E. J. Bryant, D. F. Avant.

On Correspondence—W. H. Colley, J. R. Funderburk, A. J. Smith.

The roll was called and absentees marked.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made the following report:

To preach to-night at Eclectic, Eld. Geo. Gregory; at this church, Eld. E. F. Baber; to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M., Eld. Geo. E. Brewer. We recommend that the body hold devotional services to-morrow morning at half past eight o'clock.

On motion of Bro. Upshaw, dispensed with reading of Rules of Decorum.

The body then adjourned till 8:30 to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. The prayer meeting was conducted by Eld. W. R. Ivey.

A letter was presented from Liberty church and Bro. Isaac M. Willis received as a delegate. Bro. M. M. Allman was also received from Poplar Springs church.

Called for correspondence and received—

From Harris Association—Rev. George E. Brewer.

East Liberty—Revs. T. B. Fargason, Z. D. Roby and Bro. J. C. Jester.

Montgomery—Revs. J. L. Thompson, W. R. Ivey and Brethren J. G. Harris, W. P. Dawson, G. M. Harrington, D. W. McCoy.

Tuskegee—Rev. E. F. Baber.

Coosa River—Rev. J. R. Seeley.

Tallapoosa River—Revs. W. G. Gregory, T. B. Pruitt, B. H. Vicker, David Horn and Brethren T. S. Bryant, R. B. Reeves, T. W. Worrell.

Morning Star (Colored)—Eld. Green B. Jeter.

Returned correspondence as follows:

To Harris Association—Rev. W. J. D. Upshaw.

Tuskegee—Rev. W. J. D. Upshaw.

East Liberty—Rev. J. H. Colley, D. S. Martin, James Walker, D. F. Avant, T. J. Pennington, J. D. Hughes, A. C. Swindall.

Montgomery—O. C. Swindall, J. H. Colley, D. S. Martin, A. C. Swindall, H. T. Lett T. P. Moon, J. M. Johnson, J. H. Hickman, J. L. Thompson.
 Tallapoosa River—J. H. Colley, E. J. Bryant, James Walker, H. J. Davis, Hugh Rodgers, W. H. Colley.
 Coosa River—L. H. Hastie, A. J. Smith, D. S. Martin.
 Morning Star (Col.)—Jas. Wideman, D. S. Martin, O. C. Swindall, W. J. Johnson, T. P. Moon.

The Treasurer's Report was read and adopted, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

T. J. Pennington, Treasurer, in account with Central Association for the year 1889:
 Dr.

To vouchers received.....\$108 65
 cash received.....310 76—\$419 41

Cr.

By amount paid D. S. Martin, Clerk.....\$ 41 60
 T. B. Fargason, missionary.....200 00
 Geo. W. Ellis, Treasurer Ministerial Board.....38 10
 A. C. Swindall.....4 00
 W. B. Crumpton.....27 06—\$310 76

Balance on hand.....\$108 65

The body adjourned for preaching till 1:30. Bro. Brewer preached a most excellent sermon.

EVENING SESSION.

At 1:30 o'clock the body was called to order by the Moderator, and business resumed. The reports of standing committees were called for. The report on State Missions was read by Bro. Upshaw. There being no report on Home or Foreign Missions, Bro. Brewer was requested to read extracts from the State Mission Board Annual.

Pending the adoption of the above reports, the body gave Maj. Harris an opportunity to speak in the interest of Howard Collège. At the close of the speech the following resolution was submitted:

Resolved, That the Central Association is in full sympathy with education—ministerial and secular—and will do all we can to advance the same among our people.

Pending the adoption of the above resolution, some thrilling speeches were made by Brethren J. G. Harris, W. R. Ivey, Z. D. Roby and J. L. Thompson.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made the following report:

To preach to-night at Eclectic, Rev. J. L. Thompson; at this church, Rev. T. B. Pruitt; at the school house, Rev. J. D. Hughes, followed by A. C. Swindall; to-morrow at 11 o'clock, Rev. L. H. Hastie.

The body adjourned to 8:30 to-morrow morning.

THIRD DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Friday morning the body met at 9 o'clock and resumed business by taking up the report on Home Missions.

On motion of Bro. James Walker, \$50 of the fund sent up for Home Missions were appropriated for the house of worship at Havana. The report was then adopted as follows:

HOME MISSIONS.

By referring to the State Mission Board Annual we find that the Home Mission Board has in its employ 328 missionaries. Weeks of labor, 12,409; churches and stations, 1,134; sermons and addresses, 35,216; prayer meetings, 8,419; baptisms, 4,837; received by letter, 3,565; total additions, 8,402; Sunday Schools organized, 343; teachers and pupils, 10,170; religious visits, 51,190; houses of worship built, 58; churches organized, 328; pages of tracts distributed, 850,000; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 5,000.

CUBA.—The remarkable progress of the work in this Island is unabated. Our people there are working with the same enthusiasm and persistence that marked its beginning. Their numbers and influence in Havana are steadily increasing. They confidently expect in a few years to control the religious opinions of that great city, and then to possess the whole of that beautiful Island. They base their confidence upon the promise of Him who has declared that all lands shall accept His son, whom He has set upon His holy hill of Zion as their king. He will not disappoint their expectations. We have 20 missionaries here that supply 27 churches and other stations. They have baptized 300; have a total membership of 1,493, with 26 Sabbath Schools and 2,228 teachers and pupils, and have collected \$2,255.70.

The Board will assist the State Mission Board of Alabama the coming year to the amount of \$2,000.

Bro. F. C. Plaster, of Fort Deposit, one of Alabama's best men, is laboring successfully among the colored preachers, supported jointly by the two Boards. The receipts of the Board last year were \$85,543.98.

The report on State Missions was then taken up and speeches by Brethren Baber, Ivey, Johnson and Roby followed.

On motion, the preaching service was dispensed with, and the delegates were asked to say what amount they would endeavor to raise in their churches for the next year. The churches were called and the brethren responded as follows :

Alexander City.....	\$75 00	New Hope.....	\$ 5 00
Antioch.....	15 00	Poplar Springs.....	10 00
Bethesda.....	20 00	Providence.....	7 50
Beulah.....	20 00	Rockford.....	25 00
Bethlehem.....	5 00	Shiloh.....	10 00
County Line.....	15 00	Santuck.....	10 00
Concord.....	15 00	Salem.....	15 00
Eclectic.....	20 00	Union.....	20 00
Goodwater.....	25 00	Union Springs.....	15 00
Good Hope.....	25 25	Wayside.....	10 00
Hatchett Creek.....	6 00	Hollins.....	10 00
Harmony.....	10 00	New Providence.....	5 00
Liberty.....	20 00	Hugh Rodgers.....	6 00
Lebanon.....	10 00	Green Jeter.....	2 00
Mt. Zion.....	21 75		

The body then adjourned one hour and thirty minutes for refreshments.

EVENING SESSION.

At 1:30 o'clock the body re-assembled, took up the report on State Missions, and adopted the same as follows :

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Dear Brethren: We, your committee, verily believe that this department of Christian endeavor is of vast importance, especially when we notice the immense influx of foreign population into our great State. These people, or a greater part of them, are not Christians, but are aliens and strangers to Christ. They are infidels, schismatics, seeking money and not Christ.

This element must be swayed, and that by the Baptists of Alabama, or else these powers will be utilized by the enemy of souls.

Again, how do we know but God, in his Providence, has sent them here for our Christian development in Christian benevolence, that we may win them as laurels to our crown of rejoicing.

By reference to the Annual of the State Mission Board, we can get some conception of the work done this year and also the pressing needs of our beloved State. Dear brethren, let us seize these golden opportunities and heartily co-operate with our State Board in all of its work. All admit that the work is needed, but some object to the plan; but, brethren in Christ, we can't afford to while away our time, especially since these objections are groundless. Our Board has done untold good under the present system. We trust to have an able minister planted at every stronghold and destitution in Alabama, and they amply supported. Submitted,

W. J. D. UPSHAW.

(As to the report of Committee on Foreign Missions, we have none, but would refer you to the Annuals, a number of which were distributed among the delegates).

Took up the resolution relative to Ministerial Education, and, on motion of Bro. H. T. Lett, an effort was made to send Bro. A. C. Swindall to Howard College as the beneficiary of the Central Association. The brethren were called on for pledges and \$133 in cash and pledges was raised.

A collection was taken in behalf of Bro. J. R. Steeley, amounting to \$10.50; also in behalf of Sister Norton, widow of Eld. Jos. H. Norton, amounting to \$12.75.

The following resolution, offered by Bro. T. J. Pennington, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Association tender their sincere thanks for the hospitality extended to us while in their midst.

The report on the State of Religion was read, and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Dear Brethren. We, your committee, beg leave to report that, judging from the small amounts contributed, and other signs of times in the Central, that the state of religion is not what it ought to be; it is true that some of the churches are in a good state of spiritual feeling, and are moving forward in Christian work, but, taking the Association as a whole, we are not enjoying the spirit of the Master as we ought.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. COLLEY.

The report on Religious Literature was read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We are living in a day of improvement in the sciences and literature. Every system is intensified for good or evil. Men of different minds are seeking out inventions for following and for self-aggrandizement, working out an influence detrimental to that which is good, whose ways are of the world and not of God. We claim to be Missionary Baptists in our principles, founded upon the word of God; then we should support the literature founded upon the Bible, and the Bible only. Your committee recommend more Bible reading and study. Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me, saith Christ. We suggest that we be confined strictly to our own literature, of which we have plenty and of easy access through the press and other sources. We recommend for the fireside or home reading, the ALABAMA BAPTIST and Christian Index, also good books bought of our order and sold by our conference. Let the ALABAMA BAPTIST, our Christian State Organ, be in every Christian family; support and sustain it that it may be a power in the land, together with good books. Our Sunday School literature is of the best, and plenty of that sent out by the Home Board at Atlanta, and the American

Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia. From all these auxiliaries, cultivation and practice will make us better people and crown our efforts with Christian success.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. MAXWELL,
J. W. COOPER,
C. W. SIMMONS.

The report of the Central Committee was read; also a summary of the work done by Bro. Fargason and adopted, as follows:

REPORT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

To the Central Baptist Association: The very liberal proposition of the Executive Committee of the East Liberty Association which was made last year, was renewed this year, that is, to secure the services of Eld. T. B. Fargason as Colporter and Missionary for the two Associations, which was very cordially accepted. Bro. Fargason entered immediately upon his work, and as far as your committee is informed, his services have been very efficiently performed and are satisfactory to our membership.

We refer you to Bro. Fargason for a report of his services. The terms of his engagement was for the East Liberty to pay him \$300 and the Central to pay \$200. We hope this body will not hesitate in paying him \$200 at this session, as we think he deserves it.

Your committee would like for you to give some expression of approval or disapproval of this manner of engaging a Colporter and Missionary, as an index for the future.

Praying God's blessings upon your deliberations, we submit this report.

JOHN S. BENTLEY, Ch'n.

The following is a summary of Bro. Fargason's work: Days of service, 350; miles traveled, 2,464; sermons preached, 85; addresses made, 30; churches visited, 56; received by letter, 12; baptized by others in connection with his labors, 10; Sunday Schools addressed, 12; prayer meetings held, 7; families visited, 935; families destitute of the Bible, 65; Bibles donated, 14; Testaments donated, 39; value Bibles and Testaments donated, \$6.05; number books sold, 853; value books sold, \$579.65; Sunday Schools organized, 2; pages tracts distributed, 2,348.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Association heartily endorse the work done by the Central Committee, and also the men in its employ.

The Committee on Correspondence reported as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

We, your committee, would suggest that we, as a body, encourage the spirit of correspondence, feeling it to be a source of spiritual development to all concerned. We have with us as correspondents several esteemed brethren, namely: Brethren Brewer, Roby, Pruitt, Gregory, Thompson, Ivey, Fargason, Baber, Horn, and others, who have rendered us good service in our deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. COLLEY.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We have nothing of interest before our committee, except a request from Union Church desiring a collection to be taken to aid them in the completion of their church building.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. UPSHAW, Ch'n.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance and Auditing, submit the following report: We have examined the report and vouchers of the Treasurer and find

them correct, and the financial exhibit of the Association is as follows. We have received during this session in cash and vouchers as follows:

Home Missions.....	\$ 62 07
Church building not at home.....	2 60
Foreign Missions	92 87
State Missions.....	162 11
Indigent Ministers.....	3 15
J. H. Colley.....	3 50
Bible and Colportage Work.....	1 30
Howard College.....	26 75
Minutes.....	47 70
Associational Purposes.....	3 00
Total.....	\$413 13

See financial exhibit at the close of minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. DAVIS,
J. R. CHRISTIAN,
A. D. BENTLEY,
Committee.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

To preach the Introductory Sermon, J. D. Hughes; alternate, A. C. Swindall.

Central Committee—John S. Bentley, F. M. Maxwell, W. P. Ward and T. P. Crawford.

To write Circular Letter—James Walker.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. MILLER, Ch'n.

The following instructions were given about appropriations: That the Treasurer be instructed to pay Bro. Fargason out of the funds sent up for State Missions, together with the public collection and the amount sent for Associational purposes, and that the \$50 appropriated to the house of worship at Havana be sent to the Treasurer of the Home Board with instructions as to how it shall be applied.

A motion prevailed that the Clerk be paid \$15 out of the minute fund and the balance be used in printing and distributing the minutes.

The Circular Letter was handed in, but the reading deferred.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear Brethren of the Central Association: Our meeting together has been one of profit and profound interest to all who have met with us. It affords us pleasure to note the harmony and unity that pervades all our churches, as far as expressed. But some of us are very much grieved owing to the very small pittance that we have given to the blessed Master's cause during this Associational year. How is it that we can be satisfied with our efforts in furthering our great enterprises as cherished by the true Israel of God? While contemplating these things I feel inclined to call your attention to the relation that we, as the churches of our Redeemer, have ever sustained to the rest of mankind.

We are taught "that of one blood God hath made all nations of the earth." We are sharers in the same sorrows, cursed by the same fall in Adam. Thus it occurs to me that we should have a fellow-feeling for all of the rest of mankind.

We are as light to those in darkness and in "the shadow of death." Listen to the words of Jesus: "Ye are the light of the world; let your light so shine before men that they may be constrained to glorify your Father which art in Heaven."

Our fathers before us crystalized around the cross of Christ, "holding forth the word of life," reflecting the borrowed rays of the sun of righteousness upon the perishing about them. In the Providence of the all-wise God, we have been strangely preserved and protected through all the dark ages of popery and cruel edicts of wicked kings until this bright day of grand opportunities.

It seems as if God, our Redeemer, says this to us: "Ye are a peculiar people; I need you; ye are here for a purpose." Yes, my beloved brethren, the meaning is written upon our hearts and in our minds, in the doctrine that we preach, unminged with human tradition, untainted with Catholicism; it is this that has upheld us, it is this that makes it a necessity that we should exist to-day as a denomination.

Again, we are shaping and have shaped the destiny of the world around us. Our idea of liberty of conscience, freedom of speech, have turned all eyes toward us, from the land of Africa to the northern borders of the habitable globe. The world is indebted to us for the purest form of government the earth can produce; truly did our great teacher say: "Ye are the light of the world."

We are, as teachers, instructing the world about us. This being the case, it is very clear to our minds that we are responsible if the nations are not taught. He has vested us with authority from his own lips, to go and teach those that are not taught concerning Jesus and his great plan of salvation.

Dear brethren of the Central, should all Baptists of the universe cease to teach the people the doctrines of God's blessed word for one century, I verily believe that human tradition and marriage of church and state would sweep our land as the waves of mighty waters, colored with Catholicism.

Again, we are as salt to preserve from putrefaction; "Ye are the salt of the earth," the world is lost in sin. We, as humble instruments in his hand, have a savory influence over the world with which we mingle. "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe."

If it is a fact that we stand related to the world, as a light to those in darkness, as teachers to the pupil, as salt to the meat, shall we not go forth with the light radiating from the glorious cross of Jesus? Shall we not go out with burning words upon our lips, teaching the people of every clime, the glad tidings of salvation?

In conclusion I would say, Brethren of the Central, "Awake, Awake, O Zion, put on thy strength, so that we may not be ashamed at his coming"

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. UPshaw.

The Clerk was requested to appoint Standing Committees.

The body then adjourned to meet with Providence Church on Wednesday before the first Sunday in October, 1890.

Prayer by Bro. A. C. Swindall.

STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

State Missions—J. M. Johnson, S. F. Thomas, O. C. Swindall.
Home Missions—W. J. D. Upshaw, A. C. Swindall, H. T. Lett.
Foreign Missions—C. S. Johnson, T. J. Pennington, O. P. Looney.
Sabbath Schools—R. A. J. Cumble, F. M. Maxwell, J. R. Christian.
Temperance—James Walker, E. J. Bryant, J. D. Hughes.
The State of Religion—L. H. Hastie, J. H. Colley, W. T. Stewman.
Religious Literature—T. A. Kelley, A. D. Bentley, W. P. Ward.
Education—A. G. Raines, T. P. Moon, J. H. Hickman.
Bible and Colportage Work—R. Corley, T. P. Crawford, W. R. Miller.

NAMES AND POSTOFFICES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. H. Colley.....	Equality,	Ala.	O. C. Swindall.....	Good Hope,	Ala.
L. H. Hastie.....	Marble Valley,	"	J. M. Johnson.....	Central Institute,	"
T. A. Kelley.....	Rockford,	"	W. T. Stewman.....	Rockford,	"
W. J. D. Upshaw.....	Eclectic,	"	J. H. Taylor.....	Chanahatchie,	"
D. S. Martin.....	Equality,	"	J. H. Thompson.....	Good Hope,	"
A. G. Raines.....	Proctor,	"	J. D. Hughes.....	Rockford,	"
J. W. Fulmer.....	Mt. Olive,	"	R. A. J. Cumble.....	Alexander City,	"
C. S. Johnson.....	Goodwater,	"	G. P. Olive.....	Weoka,	"
W. R. Whatley.....	Alexander City,	"	A. C. Swindall.....	Weoka,	"

LICENTIATES.

J. C. Fulmer.....	Mt. Olive,	Ala.	W. W. Hughes.....	Morial,	Ala.
B. W. Calaway.....	Rockford,	"	J. W. Jones.....	Goodwater,	"
S. B. Culpepper.....	Alexander City,	"	J. R. Reemes.....	Goodwater,	"

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association Called to Order by the Moderator.
2. Hear Letters from Churches; also Petitionary Letters.
3. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer,
4. Invite Visiting Brethren to Seats.
5. Appoint Committees to Report During Session, viz: On Religious Exercises, on Finance and Auditing, on Correspondence, on Nominations, on Documents and Requests.
6. Have Rules of Decorum Read.
7. Call Roll and Erase Absentees.
8. Call for Correspondence.
9. Return Correspondence.
10. Hear Treasurer's Report and Refer.
11. Hear from Standing Committees.
12. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions.
13. Give Instructions About Appropriations.
14. Hear Circular Letter.
15. Correct Minutes and Adjourn.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of all regular ordained and licensed ministers who are members of churches within our bounds, together with the members regularly chosen by the churches within our bounds.

ART. 2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation. But by a two-third vote of the body a member of any church, without being regularly chosen, may, upon good reasons, be admitted to represent such church when no one regularly chosen be present.

ART. 3. The members so chosen and convened shall be called the "CENTRAL ASSOCIATION."

ART. 4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches; but may withdraw from any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who shall fail to represent at an Association, and shall refuse to account for such failure at the next regular session.

ART. 5. Any church desiring admission into this Union shall petition by letter and messengers, and if found orthodox, shall be received by the Association by the Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. Any church having a public gift, before proceeding to license the same, should call the gifts of two or more sister churches, or experienced members, to unite with the church in conference to examine into the nature of the gift, and upon due approval, license to be granted, and reported to the next Association.

ART. 7. Every church in our Union, whose membership shall be one hundred or under, shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every thirty-three over one hundred they shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

ART. 8. No query shall be taken into consideration in this Association, except in cases of serious difficulty which cannot be settled by the church, nor messengers from other churches.

ART. 9. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution it shall deem expedient.

ART. 10. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their messengers, and paid over to the Committee on Finance (the committee shall be annually appointed), whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 11. The officers of this Association are to be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be elected from her own body.

ART. 12. Difference of opinion as to benevolent institutions of the day shall never be made a question of fellowship in this Association.

ART. 13. Amendments or alterations to this Constitution may be made at any regular session—two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the body, and shall hold their offices until another election.

2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in the deliberations of the Association, and keep order by enforcing the rules of this Decorum, and he shall not be allowed to vote, except in cases of a tie, and then shall give the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of the Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches, and to devise ways and means for the spread of the gospel, and the promotion of our Redeemer's kingdom upon earth; second, to maintain correspondence with sister associations, and thus preserve a chain of communication among the churches; third, to give advice to the churches in cases of difficulty; fourth, to invite visiting ministers of our faith and order to seats with us, to aid in our deliberations.

4. At each annual session there shall be appointed by the Association an executive committee, consisting of—, to whom shall be referred all matters touching the spread of the gospel in our bounds, and report thereon at the next session of the Association.

5. There shall be appointed, as in the last preceding article, a committee of finance, to whom all funds sent up by the churches to the Association shall be paid; whose duty it shall be to report thereon during the session.

6. No motion shall be entertained by the Association until it shall be seconded; it shall then be taken up, opened for debate, and finally decided, unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. Every query sent up to this Association by any church in the Union shall be read, and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided always, that those be first considered which may effect the union of the churches.

8. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; he shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.

9. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject, unless by leave of the Association.

10. There shall be no talking, whispering, or moving about during the time of any public discussion, nor any reflection cast upon the speaker.

11. Any delegate wishing to leave the Association before its adjournment, shall be required to make the cause known, and obtain leave of absence by a vote of the body; and if any delegate shall absent himself without leave, he shall be considered guilty of disorder, and shall be erased from the list of delegates.

12. A member violating any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator.

13. This decorum shall be read at each annual session of the Association, immediately after its organization.

14. This Decorum may, at any regular session, be altered or amended, a majority of the body concurring therein.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, PROOF TEXTS.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God; the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three in one.—1 John v. 7; Matt. 3:15-17; John 14:16; Matt. 28:19.

ART. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-20-21.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin; that Adam disobeyed God, and that all mankind inherited a sinful nature from Adam.—Gen. 3:1-17; Psalms 51:5; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1.

ART. 4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by himself alone.—Zach. 5:6; John 6:44; 1 Cor. 11:14; Rom. 8:7-8.

ART. 5. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.—Rom. 11:4-7; 2 Thes. 2:23; 1 Peter 1:2.

ART. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—Acts 13:39; Rom. 4:11-12-23-24-25; Gal. 2:16.

ART. 7. We believe in the preservation of saints.—Psalm 37:23-24-28; Micah 7:8; John 5:24 and 10:28; Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

ART. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, of perpetual obligation, and that none but true believers are fit subjects of the ordinances.—John 1:33; Matt. 3:13-17; Matt. 28:19-10; Acts 1:22 and 2:41; Matt. 26:6-30; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

ART. 9. We believe in one Lord, one faith and one baptism, and immersion only is baptism.—Eph. 4:5; Rom. 6:4-6; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:38-39; Mark 1:9.

ART. 10. We believe that no one is qualified to preach and administer the ordinances of the Gospel except he be called of God, as was Aaron, is set apart by, and is in good standing with the church of which he is a member, and come under the hands of the Presbytery.—Mark 3:14; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 2:7 and 5:22; Heb. 5:4; John 4:2; Acts 8:28.

ART. 11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.—John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 24:15.

ART. 12. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.—Matt. 25:46; Rev. 7:15-16; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 5:17; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:10-14-15; Matt. 25:41-43.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

First District—Meets with Mt. Zion Church Friday before fifth Sunday in March.

Second District—Meets with Antioch Friday before first Sunday in August.

Third District—Time and place unknown.

Fourth District—Hatchett Creek Friday before fourth Sunday in July.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

Sister E. L. Goggans and Sister Cumbie, of Alexander City.

Sister Susan Anthony, of Antioch Church.

Sister Emma Fiquett, of Bethesda Church.

Brother Daniel Golden, of Bethlehem Church.

Sisters E. P. Norton, E. H. Gerald, of Eclectic Church.

Sister Rutha Osburn, of Good Hope Church.

Brother J. W. Bailey and Sister Hannah Messer, of Mt. Olive Church.

Sister Malisa Norris, of New Hope Church.

Sister Elizabeth Gillespie, of Olive Branch Church.

Sisters MARY L. PENINGTON and EMMA L. STEWMAN, of Rockford Church.

Brother R. C. GOODGAME and Susan Forbes, of Shiloh Church.

Brother Hugh Williams, of Union Springs Church.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	Church Building (not at home.)	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Indigent Ministers.	Bible and Col- portage.	Howard College, Ministerial Ed- ucation.	Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	Total.
Alexander City....	20 00		20 00	29 40			6 00	3 40		78 80
Antioch			6 00					1 50		7 50
Bethlehem					2 50			1 25		4 75
Benlah	1 00		50	3 50				1 25		6 25
Bethesda	1 00		12 50	4 25			1 00	1 50		10 25
Concord	5 00		5 00	5 00				1 00		16 00
County Line	2 00		1 00	1 85	1 00		2 65	1 50		10 00
Eclectic	5 80		5 80	7 80		1 30	4 00	2 09		26 70
Good Hope	1 00		3 80	1 55				1 60		7 95
Good Water	1 33		1 33	19 88				2 00		24 54
Harmony	1 10			5 00				2 00		8 00
Hatchett Creek....	1 00		1 00					1 00	3 00	6 00
Hollins				3 50				1 50		5 00
Lebanon	2 75		3 75	3 50				1 75		11 75
Liberty				10 00				1 50		11 50
Mount Zion	3 75		3 00	5 00				1 50		13 25
Mt. Olive				12 31			8 75	1 50		22 56
Mt. Pleasant								60		60
Macedonia			5 00	3 00				1 50		9 50
New Providence..								1 20		1 20
New Hope			1 00	1 00				1 50		3 50
Olive Branch					1 65			75		2 40
Providence				5 00				1 50		6 50
Poplar Springs				9 30				1 00		10 30
Refuge				1 30				1 00		2 30
Rockford	5 00		5 00	15 00				1 50		26 50
Shiloh				6 15			1 35	1 50		9 00
Salem			1 25	1 75	1 50		1 00	1 50		6 80
Union Springs	1 00		1 00	3 00				1 00		6 00
Union	3 94	2 60	3 94	2 07			2 00	1 50		16 05
Wayside	5 50							1 55		7 05
Santuck	1 00		2 00	2 00				1 55		6 55
Col. at Association.										25 08
Totals	\$62 07	\$ 2 60	\$92 87	\$ 162 11	\$ 6 65	\$ 1 30	\$26 75	\$47 70	\$ 3 00	\$ 413 13

STATISTICS OF CENTRAL ASSOCIATION, 1889.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE	Membership Reported last	Increase.				Decrease.				S. S. Officers and Teachers.	S. S. Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Rep's Pray'r Meet'g.	Reports Revival.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Experience.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	S. S. Pupils.					
Alexander City.	Tallapoosa.	R. A. J. Cumbie.	T. A. Christian.	Alexander City.	251	6	8	1	13	3	2	24	60	3	2	1	1	1
Antioch.	Elmore.	J. H. Colley.	W. H. Collier.	Weeka.	77	4	4	1	6	1	1	77	36	1	1	1	1	1
Bethesda.	Coosa.	D. S. Martin.	W. H. Bird.	Equally.	77	4	4	1	8	1	1	77	36	1	1	1	1	1
Beulah.	Elmore.	J. M. Johnson.	J. N. Hudman.	Weeka.	54	...	...	2	5	7	1	41	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bethlehem.	Elmore.	J. H. Taylor.	J. C. French.	Channahatchie.	76	...	...	3	11	...	1	68	...	...	...	...	...	...
County Line.	Elmore.	D. S. Martin.	C. M. Moore.	Irma.	48	...	...	4	6	...	2	48	...	...	...	...	...	...
Concord.	Coosa.	L. H. Haslie.	R. S. Penton.	Pentonville.	60	3	2	1	5	...	2	55	...	...	...	...	...	...
Electric.	Elmore.	W. J. D. Upshaw.	W. L. Bullard.	Electric.	88	5	7	...	11	...	2	87	...	...	...	...	...	...
Good Water.	Coosa.	C. S. Johnson.	T. P. Cranford.	Good Water.	165	...	...	6	5	1	1	164	...	...	...	...	...	...
Good Hope.	Elmore.	J. M. Johnson.	J. F. Zimmerman.	Good Hope.	63	2	1	1	4	...	1	51	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hatchett Creek.	Coosa.	J. D. Hughes.	R. C. Hardy.	Dollar.	53	1	2	1	2	...	1	57	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harmony.	Elmore.	D. S. Martin.	J. G. Avant.	Equally.	81	1	1	...	...	...	1	80	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lebanon.	Tallapoosa.	L. H. Haslie.	W. D. Smith.	Alexander City.	89	1	1	...	2	1	1	88	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liberty.	Elmore.	A. G. Rains.	J. P. Arant.	Sikes' Mills.	65	3	2	...	1	4	1	71	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mt. Olive.	Elmore.	W. Wilkes.	W. C. Brown.	Mt. Olive.	114	81	1	1	1	4	1	132	40	...	...	...	...	...
Mt. Zion.	Tallapoosa.	W. R. Watley.	J. S. Jones.	Bulger's Mills.	87	1	1	...	17	...	1	83	...	...	...	...	...	...
Macdonald.	Coosa.	R. E. Conger.	J. T. Stewart.	Good Water.	28	5	4	2	5	2	1	76	25	...	...	...	...	...
Macdonald.	Tallapoosa.	T. A. Kelley.	M. T. Conway.	Stewartville.	73	2	7	...	3	1	1	47	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Hope.	Coosa.	W. R. Watley.	H. B. Young.	Bulger's Mills.	48	2	7	...	1	3	1	51	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old Branch.	Coosa.	J. D. Hughes.	J. D. Hand.	Pentonville.	66	3	2	...	2	5	1	60	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poplar Springs.	Coosa.	J. D. Hughes.	James A. Logan.	Travelers' Rest.	67	10	2	...	3	...	1	80	...	...	...	...	...	...
Providence.	Coosa.	A. G. Rains.	W. C. Harris.	Channahatchie.	66	2	2	...	13	3	1	57	...	...	...	...	...	...
Refuge.	Elmore.	J. H. Taylor.	T. J. Pennington.	Rockford.	60	...	...	3	1	...	2	67	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rockford.	Coosa.	C. A. Johnson.	E. J. Bryant.	Lauderdale.	49	1	1	...	4	6	2	43	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shiloh.	Coosa.	D. S. Martin.	W. J. Johnston.	Santuck.	64	14	5	2	1	...	2	42	...	...	...	...	...	...
Salem.	Elmore.	A. C. Swindall.	W. J. Johnston.	Rockford.	77	...	...	3	3	7	...	70	30	...	...	...	...	...
Shady Grove.	Coosa.	J. D. Hughes.	F. M. Allen.	Pentonville.	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Union.	Elmore.	W. J. D. Upshaw.	S. H. Thomas.	Central Institute.	64	8	1	...	...	...	...	71	...	...	...	...	...	...
Union Springs.	Coosa.	L. H. Haslie.	J. W. Cooper.	Marble Valley.	74	1	...	...	7	...	1	66	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wadeside.	Coosa.	J. D. Hughes.	George W. Ward.	Titus.	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hollins.	Coosa.	E. F. Babet.	D. L. Blanchard.	Hollins.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Providence.	Coosa.	R. E. Conger.	J. L. Jones.	Good Water.	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.					2271	107	70	10	28	1	46	45	6	24	2345	88	366	



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